

## **H. Major Research and Public Service Activities**

Mercer is a publicly supported co-educational institution of higher education that seeks to provide quality programs and services at a reasonable cost. Funding is secured through state support (distributed among the various New Jersey community colleges according to enrollment), annual county allocation, student tuition and fees, and supplemental grants. The college offers associate degrees and certificates in 69 programs.

Mercer operates under a one-college philosophy that ensures equitable service to all students regardless of when and where they take their courses. Full-time faculty members teach both day and evening courses at both the West Windsor and James Kerney campuses. Academic divisions and support service departments serve students at both campuses and are responsible for day, evening and weekend students as well as those who enroll via The Virtual Campus. During the 2010-2011 academic year, MCCC launched 2 new academic programs (Fashion Apparel/Design and Engineering Science). The college now has on-campus articulations with Fairleigh Dickinson University, William Paterson University and Felician College. The partnerships with 4 year institutions provide students with an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in 6 different program areas without leaving Mercer. The college offers a number of pre-college opportunities through its Youth Programs funded by TRIO, Upward Bound and Talent Search. The Dual enrollment program has expanded to in3 area high schools including the County's vocational Technical school. During the 2010-2011 academic year, the college reinstated its Study Tour Program with trips to Italy, Paris, and Costa Rica. During the 2011-2012 academic year, trips are planned for South Africa and Costa Rica. Also, the Study Tour program is expanding to semester abroad programs. Two students have studied for full semesters and the program is expanding. This program has proven to be a wonderfully enriching experience for MCCC's students.

Mercer County Community College is a cultural hub. The Kelsey Theatre provides a full slate of musical and dramatic productions for both adults and children. The college's Art Gallery exhibits six major shows per year. A listener-supported public radio network offers classical music programming at 89.1 WWFM and a new HD-2 channel for jazz on the same frequency. Mercer hosts a series of speakers on topics of interest to the community through its Distinguished Lecture Series. Mercer is also a destination site for area high-school athletes seeking scholarship opportunities through sports. Mercer's men's and women's soccer teams are Division I; cross-country for women was added in Fall 2010 which is also Division I. Baseball, softball, and men's and women's basketball participate in Division II and our Division III teams are men's and women's tennis.

Our cable television channel has a wide geographic reach. It has been energized by the addition of new faculty, and is slated for additional programming including more educational programs. Kelsey Theatre, our Student Center, and classrooms host non-profits for informational seminars, meetings, and fund-raising activities.

The college operates the Conference Center at Mercer to deliver training and professional development for employees of regional businesses and other employers. Other regional, state and local events are hosted at the Conference Center with community partners such as United Way, Italian American societies etc.

While our faculty and staff are major supporters and a catalyst for the area's vibrant non-profit community, the College itself is the centerpiece of the activities for many non-profits and educational entities. The College just participated in the American Heart Association *Heart Walk* with over 50 faculty and staff members. Our 290-acre campus is used frequently for similar walks for March of Dimes, AIDS, Cancer, etc. Various non-profit or other groups use the College facilities every day of the week, and these activities are coordinated with our security personnel for the health and safety of students and community members. The college encourages students to volunteer through the college chapter of the Bonners Honors program or through service learning projects. The College continues to house the Mercer County Police Academy and the Mercer County Fire Academy, which it plans to expand into a regional center for training in fire science and emergency management.

Our state-of-the-art soccer stadium hosted the 2009 NJCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship and the facility is also used by local high school and club teams. The College also offers Camp College, a summer educational program for area youth, numerous summer, sports and theatre camps.